**Amendments to the Claims:** This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1.      (Previously Presented) A method of improving the surface smoothness of a polymeric substrate, comprising disposing a coating layer on a surface of the polymeric substrate by a process comprising applying to a surface of the polymeric substrate a coating composition comprising:

> (a) from about 5 to about 50 weight percent solids, the solids comprising from about 10 to about 70 weight percent silica and from about 90 to about 30 weight percent of a partially polymerized organic silanol of the general formula $RSi(OH)_3$, wherein R is selected from methyl and up to about 40% of the R groups are a group selected from the group consisting of vinyl, phenyl, gamma-glycidoxypropyl, and gamma-methacryloxypropyl, and

> (b) from about 95 to about 50 weight percent solvent, the solvent comprising from about 10 to about 90 weight percent water and from about 90 to about 10 weight percent lower aliphatic alcohol,

> wherein the coating composition has a pH of from about 3.0 to about 8.0 and wherein a surface of said coating layer exhibits an Ra value of less than 0.6 nm, and/or an Rq value of less than 0.8 nm.

2.      (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein the pH of the coating composition is in the range 3.0 to 6.5.

3.      (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein the pH of the coating composition is about 6.0.

4.      (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein said polymeric substrate is a polyester film.

5.      (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 4 wherein said polymeric substrate
        is a poly(ethylene naphthalate) or poly(ethylene terephthalate) film.

6.      (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 4 wherein the polyester is derived
        from 2,6-naphthalenedicarboxylic acid.

7.      (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 6 wherein the polyester is
        poly(ethylene naphthalate) having an intrinsic viscosity of $0.5 - 1.5$.

8.      (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein said polymeric substrate
        is a heat-stabilised, heat-set, oriented film.

9.      (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein said polymeric substrate
        has a shrinkage at 30 mins at 230°C of less than 1%.

10.     (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein said polymeric substrate
        has a residual dimensional change $\Delta L_r$ measured at 25°C before and after heating the
        substrate from 8°C to 200°C and then cooling to 8°C, of less than 0.75% of the original
        dimension.

11.     (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein said polymeric substrate
        is a heat-stabilised, heat-set, oriented film comprising poly(ethylene naphthalate) film
        having a coefficient of linear thermal expansion (CLTE) within the temperature range
        from −40 °C to +100°C of less than $40 \times 10^{-6}/°C$.

12.     (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein said substrate has a %
        of scattered visible light (haze) of <1.5%.

13.     (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein said substrate is a heat-
        stabilised biaxially oriented film.

14.     (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein the substrate is part of
        an electronic or opto-electronic device containing a conjugated conductive polymer.

15.     (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 14 wherein said electronic or opto-
        electronic device is an electroluminescent display device.

16.    (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 14 wherein said electronic or opto-
       electronic device is an organic light emitting display (OLED) device.

17.    (Previously Presented) A composite film comprising a heat-stabilised, heat-set, oriented
       polyester substrate and a coating layer, wherein the coating layer is derived from the
       coating composition recited in claim 1, and wherein a surface of said coating layer
       exhibits an Ra value of less than 0.6 nm, and/or an Rq value of less than 0.8 nm.

18.    (Previously Presented) The composite film according to claim 17 wherein said polyester
       substrate is a poly(ethylene naphthalate) film.

19.    (Previously Presented) The composite film according to claim 17 wherein said polyester
       substrate exhibits one or more of the following characteristics:

       (i) a shrinkage at 30 mins at 230°C of less than 1%; and/or

       (ii) a residual dimensional change $\Delta L_r$ measured at 25°C before and after heating the
       polyester substrate from 8°C to 200°C and then cooling to 8°C, of less than 0.75% of the
       original dimension; and/or

       (iii) a coefficient of linear thermal expansion (CLTE) within the temperature range from
       -40°C to +100°C of less than $40 \times 10^{-6}$/°C; and/or

       (iv) a % of scattered visible light (haze) of <1.5%.

20.    (Canceled)

21.    (Withdrawn) The composite film according to claim 17 further comprising a barrier layer.

22.    (Withdrawn) The composite film according to claim 21 which exhibits a water vapour
       transmission rate of less than $10^{-6}$g/m$^2$/day and/or an oxygen transmission rate of less than
       $10^{-5}$/mL/m$^2$/day.

23-27. (Canceled)